

Activity: International Park Affairs

Activity Summary

Program Component	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Office of International Affairs	845	851	+29	-34	846	-5
International Border Program- Intermountain Region	748	743	+2	-34	711	-32
Total Requirements	1,593	1,594	+31	-68	1,557	-37
<i>Total FTE Requirements</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-1</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>-1</i>

Summary of FY 2007 Programmatic Changes for International Park Affairs

Request Component	Amount	FTE	Page #
Programmatic Changes			
• Reduce Office of International Affairs Program	-34	-1	NR&P-48
• Reduce International Border Program	-34	0	NR&P-52
TOTAL, Program Changes	-68	-1	
• Fixed Costs and Related Changes	+31	0	NR&P-4
NET CHANGE	-37	-1	

Mission Overview

The National Parks Service International Park Affairs activity includes the Office of International Affairs and the International Border Program-Intermountain Region. These programs support the National Park Service mission by contributing to two fundamental goals for the National Park Service: 1) Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context. 2) Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs. These NPS goals support the DOI goals to protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources and provide recreation opportunities for America.

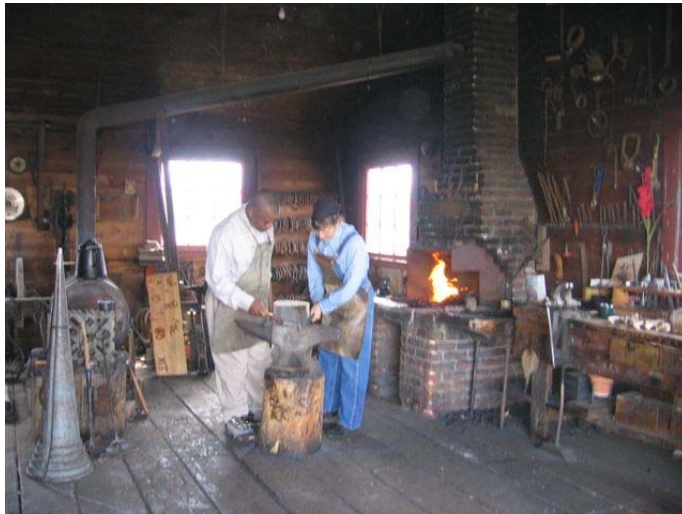
Activity Overview

Ever since the designation of Yellowstone as the world's first national park in 1872 (often referred to as "America's Best Idea"), the United States has been looked to for leadership and as a role model in national park management by other countries and the global parks movement. The National Park Service has a long tradition of international engagement, and the Service has either helped create or significantly influenced the development of the park systems in nearly every other country in the world. International cooperation is directly related to the NPS mission, and is even included in the Service's Mission Statement ("*The Park Service cooperates with partners...throughout this country and the world*"). In addition to providing other nations with technical assistance, the NPS has learned innovative park management techniques from its international work in such diverse fields as interpretation, biodiversity prospecting, invasive species management, and cultural resources preservation techniques.

International collaboration is essential to protecting park resources. Migratory species, including birds, bats, butterflies, salmon and whales, are not constrained by lines on a map, whether park boundaries or international borders, and the only way to ensure that these species continue to return to U.S. parks is to help protect their habitat in protected areas outside the U.S. Likewise, invasive species, wildland fires, and air and water pollution pay no heed to borders and require international collaboration for effective protection of park resources. While the impacts are most directly felt in the over 25 NPS units located on or near international borders, all parks are ultimately connected to and impacted by transnational environmental and ecological phenomena.

The Service, through the **International Park Affairs** activity, coordinates a number of mandated international assistance, exchange and support functions (including treaty obligations) that meaningfully complement the Service's domestic role. These include: support to Regional offices and park units so that they can collaborate effectively with neighboring countries to protect and manage resources shared across international boundaries; development and support of training workshops and technical assistance projects for other nations to aid in the protection and management of their national parks and protected areas; facilitation of the transfer of park and protected area management information and technology worldwide; and formation of partnerships with Mexico to provide for maximum protection of significant shared natural and cultural resources on the United States/Mexico border.

The **International Border Program-Intermountain Region**, or IMRICO, provides technical assistance to Intermountain Regional parks to help them understand the structure and function of the foreign governments or other entities with which they will be working; provides guidance about the history, social, cultural and political concerns specific issues may engender across borders; help identify groups or individuals that may make effective partners in addressing resource protection issues. IMRICO also provides technical assistance to the Intermountain Region parks by working with their Mexican and Canadian colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for cultural and natural resources in the border areas.



South African National Parks Director David Mabunda learns blacksmithing during his visit to Grant Kohrs Ranch NHS in May, 2005.



An international volunteer works with visitors at Kings Canyon NP.

Activity: International Park Affairs
Program Component: Office of International Affairs

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The 2007 budget request for the Office of International Affairs program is \$846,000 and 7 FTE, a program change of -\$34,000 and -1 FTE from the FY 2006 level.

Office of International Affairs: -0.034 million, -1 FTE

The NPS proposes to reduce administration of the Office of International Affairs program in order to support higher priorities.

Program Overview

In response to both Executive and Legislative directives, the National Park Service works to protect and enhance America's and the world's parks and protected areas through strengthening the management, operation, and preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources and critical habitats. The NPS shares its recognized leadership in natural and cultural heritage resource management worldwide and assists in the attainment of United States foreign policy objectives.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) exchanges technical and scientific information, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and provides technical assistance to other nations and United States territories on park and heritage resource management issues. It also assists in the implementation of international treaty obligations that arise from Legislative mandates and Executive initiatives. OIA coordinates the placement of international volunteers-in-the-parks.

- **World Heritage.** Office of International Affairs provides staff support to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks on the World Heritage Convention, a U.S. treaty obligation, which the National Historic Preservation Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to lead and coordinate for the U.S. government. The NPS manages 17 of the 20 World Heritage Sites in the U.S., including Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Parks, and the office administers the Convention's ongoing reporting and nomination process. In October 2005, the United States was elected to a four-year term on the 21-nation World Heritage Committee which oversees the implementation of the Convention and reviews nominations of new World Heritage Sites.
- **Long-Term Programs.** The Office of International Affairs develops and implements cooperative international agreements to conduct long-term programs for protected areas conservation and resource management with key international partners. Each of these international partner countries will have shared significant experiences and knowledge on protected areas issues that will increase their viability as regional role models for and partners with other nations.

The National Park Service also shares management responsibility for preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources with international park authorities along United States borders with Canada and Mexico as well as with neighboring Russia and the Caribbean Basin. The NPS accomplishes these responsibilities through decentralized activities initiated and funded directly between NPS park units and field offices, and their counterparts across the border.

- **Technical Assistance.** As part of official international agreements with partner park agencies, to strengthen efforts to protect border park resources and to support U.S. foreign policy objectives, the NPS provides technical assistance to the national park systems of other countries around the world. The majority of this assistance is funded with outside financial support, primarily from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. State Department and the World Bank.

- **International Volunteers.** OIA coordinates with NPS field office staff to facilitate training opportunities, in park units, for park and conservation professionals from abroad. This long-standing program is entitled International Volunteers in Parks. Service employees benefit from their direct interaction and exchanges with their international professional colleagues.

① Find more information online about the International Affairs Program at www.nps.gov/oia.

Use of Cost and Performance Information: International Park Affairs

The International Volunteers in Park (IVIP) program, managed by the National Park Service Office of International Affairs (OIA), helps the Park Service achieve both its domestic and international missions. The IVIP program annually places over 100 international students and park management professionals in U.S. parks where they receive training in nearly all aspects of park management. The majority of IVIPs go on to careers in park management and conservation in their home countries.

IVIPs make a significant contribution to the NPS. As part of their training, they assist the NPS in nearly all facets of park management. For example, they help conduct wildlife research, present interpretive and environmental education programs to visitors and students, design publications, and much more. The direct financial benefits to the Service are considerable: in FY 2005, IVIPs contributed nearly 60,000 hours of service to the NPS, representing nearly \$1,100,000 in costs savings.

The IVIP program is an excellent example of a NPS initiative that provides additional resources to NPS programs at considerable cost savings to the American taxpayer.

FY 2007 Program Performance Estimates

With the election of the United States to the World Heritage Committee, the governing body of the World Heritage Convention, OIA will continue to play a very active role in supporting the Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks as the U.S. representative on the Committee. This will include participating in the Committee's 31st Session in New Zealand as well as in working groups and expert meetings. In FY 2007, OIA will also complete the development of a new U.S. tentative list of potential future U.S. World Heritage nominations, including convening the Federal Interagency Panel on World Heritage to review recommended sites before submission to the Secretary of the Interior for a final determination and submission to the World Heritage Centre by the State Department.

Within available resources, OIA will continue to actively seek and develop partnerships with other Federal agencies, multilateral donor organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to support NPS international work. Already, the vast majority of international work conducted by NPS employees is funded by outside sources, and OIA will continue to see partnership development as a key priority.

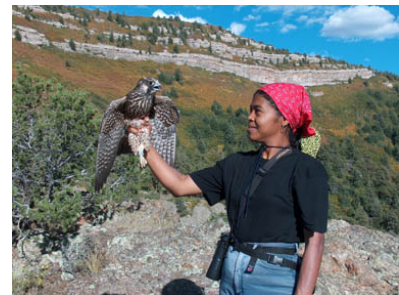
OIA will work to develop new training programs for international park managers, including potentially a revised International Seminar on National Park Management, along the lines of the highly successful and popular course run by NPS/OIA from the 1960s to 1990s. This course trained and inspired hundreds of park professionals from over 100 nations, and there has been increasing demand for a new version of the course. The successor course, which will be funded by outside sources, is seen as one way of fulfilling pledges made during the campaign for a U.S. seat on the World Heritage Committee to share NPS expertise with counterpart agencies abroad.

Where outside funding is available, OIA will continue to develop technical assistance and exchange programs with key partners, including Mexico, Bahamas, Gabon, China, Jordan, South Africa and other nations. This assistance will include in-country training, study tours in the U.S., participation in the International Volunteers in Parks program, the development of "sister parks" and other initiatives.

OIA will continue to closely monitor and evaluate NPS international travel, ensuring that such travel is consistent with the NPS mission and Service priorities, is cost-effective, and results in tangible benefits to both the Service's international partners and the NPS itself.

FY 2006 Planned Program Performance

- Renew Memoranda of Understanding between the National Park Service and Spain's Ministry of Environment and between NPS and EuroParc, the federation of European parks.
- Under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, significantly amplify U.S. engagement in World Heritage Convention activities, including coordinating the campaign for a U.S. seat on the World Heritage Committee, the governing body of the Convention, and participating in World Heritage working groups and expert meetings. Also, begin the process of revising the U.S. Indicative Inventory of Potential Future U.S. World Heritage Sites.
- Provide key staff support to the Assistant Secretary on World Heritage issues such as removal of Everglades National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the impact of climate change on World Heritage sites.
- Using State Department funding, conduct a joint NPS-Forest Service interpretation workshop in Chile and host Chilean park managers at NPS and Forest Service units.
- Using USAID funding:
 - Conduct workshops in Gabon under the President's Congo Basin Forest Partnership on civic engagement and national parks.
 - Organize national parks study tour for 4 Gabonese park superintendents in the U.S. focusing on operational and concessions management issues.
- Using World Bank funding, provide technical assistance to the Silk Road project in Gansu province, China.
- Continue working with the State Department and World Monuments Fund to provide follow-up technical assistance on hydrology solutions, as well as to present a workshop on tree management to the Angkor complex, Cambodia.
- Continue placing international volunteers in NPS units.
- Working with the NPS "Park Flight" Migratory Bird Program, develop bird conservation and education programs in Panama, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua. OIA will also facilitate the placement of at least 12 Latin American biologists/park managers at U.S. national parks to learn about bird conservation/education techniques.
- Begin development of a revised NPS International Seminar on National Park Management.
- In partnership with NOAA and other agencies, organize a workshop on the "Connectivity of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas," which will identify ecological and environmental linkages between NPS units and other parks in the Caribbean region.
- Continue the development of the North American Parks Partnership, specifically work to include Mexico in the development of joint resource monitoring protocols with the U.S. and Canada and begin developing joint interpretive products.
- Facilitate the development of "Sister Park" relationships between NPS units and parks in Greenland, China and Japan.
- Continue the coordination of international official visits to WASO and NPS units nationwide.



An international volunteer participates in the Park Flight program at Bandolier NM.

FY 2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

- Renewed Memoranda of Understanding between the National Park Service and Chile's National Forestry Corporation and the Bahamas National Trust.
- Under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, supported and participated in World Heritage Convention activities, including the completion of the U.S. World Heritage Periodic Report.

- Using State Department funding, conducted 3 workshops in Argentina and Uruguay on sustainable park management, training over 90 park and NGO staff.
- Using USAID funding, completed a public forum/workshop on national park legislation in Libreville, Gabon, attended by 60 Parcs Gabon staff, including all 15 park superintendents, headquarters staff, outside legal advisors, and international and local wildlife NGO's, which led to the adoption of a final draft organic law for the national parks of Gabon.
- Working with the NPS "Park Flight" Migratory Bird Program, developed bird conservation and education programs in the Bahamas, Argentina, and Central America. OIA also facilitated the placement of 10 Latin American biologists/park managers at U.S. national parks to learn about bird conservation/education techniques. In FY 2005, the Park Flight team (including OIA) won the Secretary's 2004 Four C's Award.
- Using State Department and private funding, provided technical assistance in hydrology and horticulture to the Angkor World Heritage Site in Cambodia.
- Using Department of Defense funding, provided technical assistance to the government of Greenland in park planning, visitor management, education and other topics.
- Placed 117 International Volunteers in 43 NPS units, who contributed 58,893 total hours in service to the NPS, representing a savings to the government of \$1,082,598.
- Coordinated 424 official international visits to NPS units, including 3 Presidents, 2 monarchs, 4 Environment Ministers, and 5 current and former national park directors.
- Through coordination with NPS WASO, Region and field staff, OIA has helped to significantly reduce the amount of NPS funds spent on international travel; today the vast majority of NPS international travel is funded by outside sources.



South African Ranger Andrew Lumbe patrolling Channel Islands NP with NPS Ranger Todd Swain.

Activity: International Park Affairs
Program Component: International Border Program-Intermountain Region

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The 2007 budget request for the International Border Program-Intermountain Region program is \$711,000 and 5 FTE, a program change of -\$34,000 and 0 FTE from the FY 2006 level.

Reduce Support for International Border Program-Intermountain Region: -0.034 million

The NPS proposes to reduce administration of the International Border Program-Intermountain Region program in order to support higher priorities.

Program Overview

The International Border Program-Intermountain Region facilitates international cooperation in the stewardship of natural and cultural resources. This is being accomplished through the following activities:

- Providing leadership, coordination, and facilitation of annual "Sister Park" work plan meetings and forums.
- Providing and brokering direct field-based support and expertise to parks to facilitate international cooperation in resource preservation and stewardship.
- Providing professional and grant assistance to parks in working with their Mexican and Canadian colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for cultural and natural resources in the border region.

① Find more information online about the International Affairs Program at www.nps.gov/IMR/IMRICO.

FY 2007 Program Performance Estimates

- Identify issues and implement projects that can most effectively be addressed through international cooperation.
- Provide consultation and support to Intermountain Regional parks regarding the US/Mexico "Sister Parks" program.
- Provide assistance and consultation to Intermountain Regional parks regarding the annual Crown Mangers Partnership Forum with Canada.

FY 2006 Planned Program Performance

In addition to providing technical assistance for international issues, a total of \$153,280 was awarded for park projects:

- \$25,000 to Glacier NP to continue a project to establish the ethnographic significance of Chief Mountain. Chief Mountain, which lays half in Glacier National Park and half in the Blackfeet Reservation, is a place of great spiritual power and is an active vision quest site for Native Americans. It has also become a popular climbing destination, which disrupts traditional activities. The documentation of the cultural significance of Chief Mountain is necessary for the development of a joint management plan. The ethnographic study of Chief Mountain is being done in cooperation with the Blackfeet and Salish-Kootenai tribes in the U.S. and the Blood, Siksika, and Peigan Tribes in Canada.
- \$21,130 to Saguaro NP to continue a research study on forest structure and squirrel populations in relation to fire history. In western North America fire is a major factor in landscape ecology, but past policies of fire suppression have resulted in significant changes in cool fire frequency, catastrophic fire frequency, and forest structure. Few forests with natural fire regimes remain where an appropriate comparison can be made between them. Saguaro NP (SAGU) practiced fire suppression for more than 50 years before initiating controlled burns in 1985. In contrast, Mexico's Parque Nacional Sierra San Pedro Martir (SSPM) is a forest that has never received substantial timber harvest or fire suppression in part due to its rugged terrain and isolation in Baja California. As a result, the forest structure is considerably more open than in fire suppressed systems found within many parts of the

U.S. Additionally, SSPM presents a landscape that consists of a mosaic of past natural fires and this history has been well-mapped. Tree squirrels may be an excellent indicator of forest health and forest structure due to their dependence on mature forests for tree seed foods, nest sites, cover from predators, and maintenance of appropriate microclimates for food storage. Two native endemic tree squirrels of special concern are found in these two parks: Mearns's squirrels (*Tamiasciurus mearnsi*) are endemic to SSPM where they are considered threatened in Mexico, and Santa Catalina gray squirrels (*Sciurus arizonensis catalinae*) are found in SAGU and are considered uncommon and of uncertain conservation status. As a result, the inability of these tree squirrels to persist is a significant shared resource issue between the parks. The goal of this project is to study the impacts of fire on these two species of tree squirrels in these two similar parks with different fire histories.

- \$25,000 to Padre Island NS to continue restoration of endangered Kemps Ridley Sea Turtles. Padre Island NS is collaborating with several entities in the U.S. and Mexico to build upon previous efforts to re-establish this species. The project determines results of previous efforts, documents interchange of individuals between nesting beaches, investigates movements of adult females and males, and conducts other studies and conservation efforts, to gain a global perspective on this species, which does not recognize the boundaries of the two countries.
- \$25,000 to Glacier NP to continue assessment of grizzly bear connectivity between Montana, British Columbia and Alberta. Grizzly bear habitat in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem, which spans portions of Montana, British Columbia, and Alberta, is threatened by fragmentation and loss of connectivity due to increasing human development. Prior to this study, the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia only collared and tracked bears within their borders, while in Montana monitoring efforts were primarily focused on bear mortality and productivity within the U.S. borders. By expanding these existing studies to include additional collaring and tracking of bears, and sharing information, Canadian and American resource managers will get a full picture of grizzly movement and habitat.
- \$50,000 to Tumacacori NHP to continue preservation and history workshops on Spanish colonial missions at venues on both sides of the border in cooperation with Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) and other organizations in Mexico.
- \$7,150 to Bandolier NM to continue monitoring migratory birds.

FY 2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

In addition to providing technical assistance, a total of \$249,249 was awarded for park projects:

- \$20,000 to Glacier NP to establish the ethnographic significance of Chief Mountain.
- \$45,000 to Big Bend NP for riparian restoration in Boquillas Canyon.
- \$24,599 to Saguaro NP for a research study on forest structure and squirrel populations.
- \$25,000 to Padre Island NS to restore endangered Kemps Ridley Sea Turtles.
- \$22,000 to Glacier NP to assess grizzly bear connectivity between Montana, British Columbia and Alberta.
- \$40,000 to Tumacacori NHP to research Spanish colonial missions.
- \$7,150 to Bandolier NM to monitor migratory birds.
- \$5,000 to Casa Grande Ruins NM for research on influence of land-use on migratory species of burrowing owls.
- \$5,000 to Carlsbad Caverns NP for an interpretive education workshop.
- \$9,000 to Chiricahua NM/Fort Bowie NHS for research on bat species richness and abundance.
- \$17,500 to Chihuahuan Desert Network for development of habitat and corridor suitability models as a test of landscape connectivity among national parks in the Chihuahuan Desert.
- \$8,000 to Coronado NM/Chiricahua NM/Saguaro NP for landscape linkages and the conservation of rare felids in the borderlands.
- \$5,000 to Coronado NM/Chiricahua NM/Saguaro NP for conservation genetics of jaguars and puma in the State of Sonora.
- \$8,000 to Coronado NM/Chiricahua NM for bi-national cooperation to expand vegetation mapping efforts and assistance between U.S. and Mexican national park areas.
- \$8,000 to Glacier NP for Crown Managers Forum.